

The Spectator

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THE PARIS SUBWAY HORROR.

The Paris underground road is just as spacious as ours is to be. Its stations and cars are brilliantly lighted by electricity. Its walls are lined with white tiles and, by the testimony of travellers, it has remained sweet and clean. Its cars are of wood, neither better nor worse than those of the Manhattan Elevated and seating about the same number of passengers. The ventilating conditions are much as they will be here. In a word, we have no data to enable us to make light of what will be a very general apprehension of the possibility of a like disaster in New York.

Except, happily, the human factor in underground railway operation. Given a comparatively trifling emergency such as the blowing out of a fuse we have no reason to fear that our trainmen will run away from danger. The early reports from Paris of the "frightened and fleeing employees" are officially replaced in the later despatches by the explanation that "the escape of the trainmen is attributed not to their lack of attention to the passengers, but to their superior knowledge of the subterranean passage which enabled them to hasten forward in spite of the obscurity."

This passage, under the rails, is a wide conduit some six feet deep used by operatives for oiling the rolling stock and for repairing defects in the line. But remembering the Charles Bazaar and the Bourgeois we can easily credit the statement that "had the train crews remained at their posts and fought the flames and sent warning to approaching trains the horror would not have happened." In such an emergency here we shall instinctively look to the intelligence and coolness of motorman and guard to prevent both panic and loss of life.

But in the light of this catastrophe there will be a general demand for steel cars on the subway. Steel cars are no longer an experiment. The Altoona shops of the Pennsylvania are busy with a large order for them for use in the road's North River tunnel. In this type of car there is nothing inflammable but the rattan of the seats. Ordinary precautions for the safety of subway passengers call for the adoption of steel cars by the Interborough Company.

MRS. ASTOR'S BALL.

"Wall street spoils Mrs. Astor's ball. Men summoned to New York by brokers' demands for further margins."—Press despatch.

There was a sound of revelry by night and Newport's "quality" was gathered there, her beauty and her chivalry. The lights shone bright o'er fair women and brave men, the flowers in the debutante's corsage exhaled their sweetest perfume, the gong de volaille and the mignon de flet de boeuf were hot in the range (it is the close season for terrapin and carvas back) and all went merry as a (Newport ten-year time-limit) marriage bell. Joy was unconfined.

But hark! Did you not hear it? That crunch on the gravelled path as the telegraph boy rides up on his wheel with messages from Wall street? The dread call comes for more margins.

Ah! then and there was hurrying to and fro for check-books. This cotton leader stuck for \$100,000 more, that old clubman for \$1,000,000, this kinsman of counts for as much. The dense gloom falls on palace walls and mars the scene but late irradiate with joy. There are partings in hot haste all around and special cars for the "city."

And Wall street goes on liquidating securities dewy with feminine tear drops. This block means a postponed trip to Europe, that a diamond necklace unpurchased for a fair bride's neck. It is rough, but it is Wall street's way.

THE ROBBER-CABMAN CRUSADE.

In complimenting the Merchants' Association and according it full praise for an energetic and successful prosecution of dishonest cabmen, The Evening World may be excused some personal gratification at the initiative it took in the good work. This paper first exposed the robber cabman, proved how frequent and general his extortions were and enlisted the services of city officials, including those of the Corporation Counsel, for the defense of the public against overcharge.

The Merchants' Association, in furthering this movement, has caused the arrest of more than 200 drivers of cabs and hacks on charges preferred by its agents, with a net result of 100 convictions for extortion. It has effected the revocation of four licenses, and is carefully watching offenders twice fined and liable to loss of license on a third conviction. It is an excellent public service well performed.

A detail of the Merchants' campaign is the issue of a cab-card for general distribution. On this is printed a summary of the information necessary for a fare to know to realize whether or not he is being swindled. In this dissemination of unfamiliar facts lies the hope of further restricting the dishonest cabby's field of operations.

LEAVING THEIR OLD MOORINGS.

The savings bank depositors, it seems, are going into stocks. In many cases, so many that the aggregate of funds so diverted is very large, they are withdrawing their \$100 or \$1,000 of savings for the purchase of securities now from 20 to 40 points below the market rating of a few months ago. The opportunity is a tempting one. With all the declines of values there is no word of a reduction of dividends. As investments the stocks appear to afford as good a return as before. In the case of railroad shares the road's earnings are in some instances larger than when the stock was at its top-notch market value.

To the savings bank investor there is the cheerful outlook of getting from a 3-per-cent. basis to one of 5 or higher. He even knows of stocks that will pay him 15 per cent. at present quotations.

But he is venturing on an unknown sea. He is running his little catboat right into the wash of the big steamers and he may get swamped. But at least he is buying cheap.

Eminent Taxes and Evictions.—What Comptroller Groat prophesied last spring at the time of the numerous tenement-house evictions on the east side he proves now by figures. The very landlords who have raised rents on the excuse of a higher taxation rate are the ones whose tax bills this year are smaller than last year's. They have judged the figures to justify a course of oppression of tenants for which no term of criticism is too severe.

TOLD ABOUT NEW YORKERS.

A PRIMER OF AMERICAN CHARACTER just back from abroad says that Americans are "notoriously vain and that when this aboutness is combined with the desire to please, it results in a sort of self-consciousness which is the cause of the 'peaches' which are so characteristic of the American people." This aboutness is the cause of the "peaches" which are so characteristic of the American people. This aboutness is the cause of the "peaches" which are so characteristic of the American people.

Thomas Alva Edison maintains his primacy as the greatest American inventor. By the end of March he had taken out no fewer than 291 patents and his ordinary fees have amounted to the neat little sum of \$5,000. Such figures relate, however, only to this country. Every Edison invention of any importance has also been patented in foreign lands, so that the actual patents bearing his name, in many languages, count up into the thousands, and the mere cost of securing them in the way of fees, would be a handsome fortune.

In connection with the coming international yacht race James E. Munson, of New York City, says that George Steers, who built the America, used a toy yacht made in Japan as a model for the original cup-winner. The toy was owned by a resident of Maspeth, L. I., and Steers saw it sailing one day. It showed such speed that he made a thorough study of its lines and later built the America after the model of the Japanese toy.

Steel Mackaye was an actor who had ideas. He built the Madison Square Theatre and other theatres, wrote plays for them, managed productions and showed that he possessed more versatility than Hammerstein. He made colossal failures, too, and the greatest of these was the Spectatorium, near the World's Fair Grounds, in Chicago. This was designed to be the largest theatre in the world. The World's Fair managers placed their gates at such position that Spectatorium could not draw fair crowds, stockholders who paid for their certificates objected to rule by holders who got blocks for influence that was never of value, and so the greatest theatre on earth was never completed. Judge Taft has brought ten years of litigation over this failure to a close by saddling non-paying stockholders with their portion of the concern's debts. Mackaye is dead and the material of the Spectatorium was long ago thrown into the scrap heap.

LETTERS, QUESTIONS, ANSWERS.

A Transfer Complaint.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Last night I came uptown in an Eighth Avenue car and asked for a transfer for a One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and Amsterdam. I got. When I got to Amsterdam Avenue car was in sight and it was raining very hard, so I got on the Kingsbridge car and offered my transfer, which was refused. But the conductor was nice about it. So, not to create a disturbance, I paid another fare and kept the transfer. Don't you think, readers, that many people would be benefited if the company was compelled to take the Eighth Avenue car transfer on the Kingsbridge car?
HOWARD V. BORN in Glasgow of Irish Parentage

To the Editor of The Evening World:
Where was Sir Thomas Lipton born?
J. J. B.
No. 239 Broadway.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
Kindly publish the address of the Legal Aid Society.
TOM O'B.

Thursday.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
On what day did Aug. 12, 1869, fall?
M. B.

By Applying at the School.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Where can I see the principal of one of the high schools in this city?
A. S.

Opened to Traffic May 24, 1883.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
When was the Brooklyn Bridge ready for traffic?
L. E. B.

Yes.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Was "The Christian" ever played at the Academy of Music before?
J. H. J.

No. Champion Only of America.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Was John L. Sullivan ever champion of the world?
A. R.

Latin for "Voice of the People."
To the Editor of The Evening World:
What is the "vox populi"?
A. R.

A Pugnacious Query.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
How many rounds did Sharkey and Corbett fight in each of their two battles?
WILLIAM H.

In 1896 Corbett and Sharkey fought a four-round draw. In 1908 Corbett lost to Sharkey on a four in the ninth round.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Latin for "Where Are You Going?"
Is "Quo Vadis" just a name for a novel or has it a meaning? If so, what meaning?
W. C. D.

On Side Nearest Curb.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Which is the proper side for a gentleman to walk on when crossing ladies on the street?
IGNORANT.

43. Born March 19, 1860.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
What is the age of William Jennings Bryan?
P. H.

The Perils of Summer Love-Making in Town.



1. Although the window's open wide,
One quite forgets the Man Outside.
2. And whispered nothings, heart to heart,
Blind one to all the Painter's art.



3. For when fond Cupid's on the wing,
Who heeds descending scaffolding?
4. Till, with a shock, one wakes to see
That Love's Young Dream's a game of three.



HOME FUN FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

CONUNDRUM PARTY.

A pretty idea is to take the inside out of a walnut, chestnut and as many different kinds of nuts as you can get. Put a conundrum in each nut. Tie it together with a piece of baby ribbon, leaving about a yard hanging. Fix as many of these as there are guests. Then put a great big coconut in centre of table and cover it all up with flowers and ferns. Also have a long baby ribbon tied on this. Then hide all the little nuts under the flowers, but so they can be easily pulled out, and have the ribbons extending out in all directions. Each guest has a ribbon and they pull them out one by one, and read the conundrum, and all try to guess it. Arrange it so the coconut will be the last to be pulled out. And you'll see some fun.

ALPHABET CODE.

A group of boys and girls sit in a semi-circle. One end is called the Head, the other the Foot. The person at the Head holds a card receiver, full of paper slips, supposed to be visiting cards. On these slips are written the names of well-known persons. The next one of the company recites: "Oh, prithes tell us, Mr. (or Mrs.) Gray, what noble guests have called to-day?" The Head Person selects a slip, and from his knowledge of the same writes there, he must give a full description, and the questioner must try to give the name of the distinguished visitor. If he fails, he must go to the Foot. If he guesses the Head Man goes to the Foot. Then he takes the Card Receiver, and his neighbor puts the same question to him, and so on.

THE MUSIC OF NEIGHING COLTS.

There are many things harsher than the neigh of a colt, but it is unlikely that any one ever attempted to make music out of such noises until a Western composer recently did it. The illustration shows the neighing of colts reduced to a musical score. Judging from the haphazardness of the arrangement the colts see a corncrib. Any child who has taken a few music lessons can play this on the piano.

A VIRTUE MISPLACED.

"I ordered this steak not well done," said the impatient guest.
"I know it," answered the intellectual waiter. "But the cook is one of the people who believe that no matter how small a thing is it should be well done."
—Washington Star.

HE STOOD FOR IT.

Physician—Your ailment is rheumatism, eh? Is it a case of long standing?
Patient (steamboat pilot)—Yes, sir; I think that's what giv it to me.—Chicago Tribune.

ALTOGETHER PROPER.

Tess—I get two weeks' vacation, but I'm not going away anywhere.
Jess—Why not go to the seashore?
Tess—No, to tell the truth, I haven't anything to wear.
Jess—Well, that's the place to wear it.
—Philadelphia Press.

SYMPATHY.

Young Wife (rather nervously)—Oh, cook, I must really speak to you. Your master is always complaining. One day it is the soup, the second day it is the fish, the third day it is the joint—in fact, it's always something or other.
Cook (with feeling)—Well, mum, I'm sorry for you. It must be quite awful to live with a gentleman of that sort.—Punch.

TO THE LOCALLY ILLUSTRIOUS.

(Hugh McLaughlin, the Brooklyn political leader, whose "master" Devery is planning to break.)
Oh, Children! On our Pedestal
McLaughlin next is seen,
Whom Devery's planning to attack,
Remarking to his Bugs: "Poor Mac!
Just watch me stretch him on the rack
And tuck up his machine!"

LOVERS' CONFIDENCES.

Has Either the Right to Keep a Secret from the Other?

By Helen Oldfield.

A MOST-IMPORTANT question which secretly torments many persons, women especially, is whether people who are engaged to be married have the right to keep secrets from one another.

Unquestionably confidence is in itself a good thing, and, like other things, some of which are even better, it may be used in excess. Confidence is a necessary quality in life, and a little mystery has its charm even between a husband and wife; still more so between sweethearts.

The palace of truth, where the whole truth and nothing but the truth must be spoken, regardless of any once praiseworthy or feelings, and all thoughts must be laid bare, would inevitably be a most uncomfortable place of residence.

There are certain polite notions essential to civilized life, and it would be a useful thing if the ugly facts which courtesy and custom agree to cover were to be stripped of drapery and exposed in all their nakedness, says Helen Oldfield, in the Chicago Tribune.

"Never tell all you may know, since he who tells all that he knows often tells more than is wise," is one of the seven sayings of Shyamen, the sage, in the Arabian, and "Never tell all you may think, since he who tells all that he thinks often tells more than is true," is another; while among the proverbs of Solomon is this: "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

All of which is to say that confidence between lovers is most, right and a bountiful duty, but confidences are altogether another thing. For example, no one has the right to betray the confidence of another to even the nearest and dearest.

There may be points upon which honor demands silence rather than confession. If the secret is one's own, discretion as well as affection must be consulted as to whether it shall be told to one's betrothed.

No woman of delicacy of feeling will entertain her fiancé with the tale of her rejected suitors. When the love has been mutual it is another matter. There are men who object seriously to taking to wife any woman who has been engaged to another man, and such men should be allowed full liberty of choice and not led into matrimony blindfold.

If confidences are given they should be comprehensive; half confidences are worse than none. Much trouble arises from the fact that it is usually the innocent flirtations which are disclosed, while the grand passion, if it existed, is passed over in silence.

Angelina makes Edwin fully acquainted with the hopeless suits of Dick, Tom and Harry for the fair hand which she has promised to him, and Edwin tells Angelina with abundant candor how he was unable to choose between Maud and Ethel until she (Angelina) appeared upon the scene and proved conclusively that he was in love with neither of the train. But Angelina has naught to say of her affair with Capt. Bob, about which their set gossiped for a whole season and which was the motive power which took her and her mother to California, where she met Edwin; nor does Edwin enlighten Angelina as to his infatuation for Edith, whose heartless jilting of him nearly sent him to the "demolition bowworks."

Which is both a mistake and a pity, since both Edwin and Angelina are sure, sooner or later, to hear of these episodes and some mutual friend who has heard the whole story and tells it with additions. It was one of the wisest of women who pronounced the greatest commandment of society to be "Thou shalt not be found out."

When that commandment is broken ruin and disaster are certain to ensue.

PRESERVATION OF EGGS.

German papers state that it is possible to keep eggs fresh for any length of time by simply immersing them in a 10 per cent. solution of silicate of soda, commonly called "liquid glass." This produces the formation of a coating which renders the eggs perfectly air-tight. The eggs so treated retain their fresh taste for many months. The best proof of the efficacy of this treatment has been furnished by the fact that such eggs, after having been kept for a whole year, were hatched, and the chickens were strong and healthy.

The preserving solution is best prepared by dissolving one pound of liquid glass in four quarts of cold water. The eggs are then immersed in this solution, which should be kept in a glazed earthenware vessel, and the eggs are kept in the solution for a short time. If one of these preserved eggs is to be boiled the shell must be first perforated in order to prevent cracking.

MERCIFUL WARFARE.

Military officials who advocate the dum-dum bullet are now contending that it is really a humane projectile, inasmuch as it knocks a man out once for all instead of boring a hole through him so minute that it does not interfere with his continuing the fight or returning to it after a brief absence at the field hospital. It is argued that the modern small-calibre bullet is the one that is really inhumane, as it tends to prolong war. "This is an argument," says an authority, "that might appeal to the taxpayer, but will hardly be accepted as convincing by those whose duty compels them to stand in front of flying projectiles. Every purpose is answered, so far as the result of a battle is concerned, by a wound that disables a man for the time being."

ON THE EVENING WORLD PEDESTAL.



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